



Bund der Jugend
der deutschen Minderheit

Application for the Position of Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics at the Organization Youth of European Nationalities

Dear YEN Members,

I am writing to express my keen interest in applying for the position of Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics at the Organization Youth of European Nationalities. With my extensive experience in minority affairs and my passion for promoting minority rights and political participation, I am confident that I can make a valuable contribution to our organization.

Since my childhood, I have been part of the German minority in Poland. In 2018, I became a member of the Youth of the German Minority (BJDM) and early on learned to appreciate the importance of cultural diversity and minority rights. My journey began with the International Summer Camp in 2018 in Czechia, where I had the opportunity to meet young representatives of the German minority from 13 countries. These experiences motivated me to actively advocate for the concerns of minorities and to be their voice. I founded a local group, was elected treasurer of the board in 2020, and assumed the position of president of the BJDM in 2022.

During my tenure as president, I have gained extensive experience in the field of minority politics. In particular, the struggle against discrimination of the German minority in the education system has strengthened my determination to advocate for justice and equal opportunities. In 2022, the German minority in Poland was clearly discriminated against by a decision of the Minister of Education - our German language classes were reduced from three hours to one hour per week, while other minorities were not affected. As a result, I participated in several meetings at the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Berlin and at the German Embassy in Warsaw. I appeared publicly on television and was also involved in a meeting with the Polish Minister of Education, Czarnek, in 2023. I have learned to collaborate with government authorities and other relevant stakeholders to effect positive change. Furthermore, in collaboration with the European Youth Parliament (EYP) in Poland, I co-organized a National Session in Lodz for approximately 150 people (delegates and experts),



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where the protection of minority languages was one of the main topics. This event received wide media attention and challenged the majority society to engage with this issue.

Additionally, through my academic background, I have gained a solid understanding of European politics and intercultural relations. Currently, I am studying Management and the Europa Master, a trinational program in Opatowitz, Mainz, and Dijon. This program prepares me to understand complex political challenges at the European level and to develop innovative solutions.

As the Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics at the Organization Youth of European Nationalities, I see the opportunity to contribute my experiences and knowledge to represent the interests of minorities at the European level and to strengthen their political participation. I am ready to engage fully in this important task and to effect positive changes together with your team.

Yours sincerely,
Weronika Koston